

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS (410) 313-2236

NEWS RELEASE

For Release: Dec. 29, 2002 Contact: PFC Denise Walk

(410) 313-2236

Police Investigating Extensive Damage Caused by a Bulldozer at an Ellicott City School Construction Site

Howard County Police are investigating a destruction of property incident that occurred at an Ellicott City school construction site earlier today at about 3:52 a.m.

Howard County Police officers, who had been working on a nearby surveillance, heard a "back-up beeper" sound from a vehicle, followed by a loud "bang" noise. The noises appeared to have come from the Northeast Elementary School construction site, located in the 3100 block of Old Stockbridge Drive in Ellicott City.

Upon investigating the noises, officers heard the sounds of a vehicle, squealing its tires, driving away from Old Hollow Lane, another street located off of Old Stockbridge Drive. A police K-9 unit was dispatched and a trail led from the school construction site to Old Hollow Lane.

Officers arriving at the school discovered three construction trailers had been knocked over. The officers further discovered that a bulldozer had been driven through the school by unknown suspect(s), causing extensive damage.

Crime Lab personnel responded and processed the scene. A representative from the Office of School Facilities also responded to the scene and a preliminary estimate of the damage is believed to be approximately \$50,000. No estimate was available as to the damage of the three trailers.

The investigation is continuing into this matter. Additional information will be released as it becomes available.